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To: Examiner Russell D. Stormer

Company: United States Patent and Trademark Office

Fax No. 703-305-3597

Re: Response to Final Office Action (Serial No. 09/599,679)

No. of Pages (including this page) 18

Date: March 20, 2002

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Examiner Stormer:

Included with this Fax cover sheet is a 17 page response to the Final Office Action in this case. The response includes amendments to claims 13, 15-20, 23 and 25 (a clean version and marked-up version, showing the changes, of each).

Best Regards,
Hal Knecht

Patricia Lewis
 3/21/02
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Applicant: Robert J. Brockway
 Filed: June 22, 2000
 Title: COMPACTOR WHEEL AXLE
 GUARD SYSTEM

Examiner: R. Stormer
 Group Art Unit: 3617
 Serial No.: 09/599,679
 Atty Docket No.: TER003RA

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Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This paper is in response to a Final Office Action mailed September 13, 2001. A Notice of Appeal was filed on January 14, 2002, after a request for a one-month extension of time was filed to extend the reply due date to January 14, 2002 (January 13, 2002 being a Sunday). Another request for a one-month extension of time, for filing the appeal brief, was filed on March 14, 2002. An appeal brief is now due to be filed on April 14, 2002. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 13, 15-20, 23 and 25 as follows:

13. (Amended) The compactor wheel as set forth in claim 6, wherein said axle
 guard system further comprises a cleat-free area formed circumferentially around said rim on said
 face and extending widthwise from said inner edge across said rim toward said outer edge a
 distance, said at least one circumferential barrier being mounted on said cleat-free area.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark
 Office on the date shown below.

3/20/02
 Date

Signed: 
 Harold C. Knecht III, Reg. No. 35,576